

OK 2/6/95

me: My name is Dustin Lucarelli, ~~and~~ I'm interviewing Mrs. Anita Mattila at her house. Today's date is November 8th, 1996. The focus of the interview with Mrs. Anita Mattila is any connections she has with the West Ishpeming School.

What is your full name?

Anita: Anita Joan Mattila

me: okay

me: When and where were you born?

Anita: In Ishpeming, at oh when, February 10, 1938

me: okay

me: At what hospital? Bell Memorial?

Anita: Bell Memorial, ~~at~~ ~~at~~ umham

me: Do you have any siblings?

Anita: yes, I have a brother Bob Eliason and a half brother Melvin Eliason.

me: when were they born?

Anita: Bob was born June 8, 1936 and Melvin was born same day as mine February 10, 1927

me: where

Anita: I had two other a ~~half~~ brother and a half brother and a sister but they died.

me: Where did you live as a young child?

Anita: I lived right up the street from here, on Gold Street

me: What grade did you start school at?

Anita: kindergarden at West Ishpeming School

me: What was it like in kindergarden?

Anita: well we had, there was three grades in one, one room. Mrs. Hammar was the teacher, Gladys Hammar and we had kindergarden, ^{1st} first, ^{2nd} second in that same room

me: how were you transported to school, walk, drive, or take a bus?

Anita: Walked, we're only a few about three blocks away. Two blocks I think

me: what was a ~~normal~~ elementary school day for you?

Anita: We started at nine and I think we were out at about three-thirty.

me: what would you do during the day?

Anita: at school?

me: uh ha

Anita: Is that in kindergarden or ~~is that~~ just the whole elementary

me: whole, kindergarden and the whole elementary

Anita: Well lets see we had arithmetic before it was called math, geography, and history, science. The boys had wood shop when they were I think seventh and eighth graders or something, um what else did we do. We came home for lunch we didn't, they didn't have hot lunch program at that's time so we had came home for lunch and the ones page 2

Was West
Ish 7+8
grade too?

Anita: that ah lived in Deer Lake or Cooper Lake, took the bus and they took sandwiches along to... to eat

me: About how many kids were in your class?

Anita: It's probably about twelve I think in each class. Here's a picture, there's two classes in this one right here

me: What? what classes are those?

Anita: This... these are ah the third and fourth grade classes

Do you know the year?

me: ok. Do you mind if I take that with me?

Anita: No, you may have that.

me: okay. Did you get homework often?

Anita: I don't remember homework that much, no in grade school

me: What... did you begin school at? What year did you begin... begin school at West Ishpeming?

Anita: ~~1945~~ 1942, and I went through eighth grades, eighth grades um 1940 no um 1952 were I graduated from the eighth grade

me: How were unruly kids handled?

Anita: How were they handled..... ah I really don't remember. I don't. I think when they were younger they sat in the corner, but ah it didn't seem that bad I don't think they were really bad, really

include

Me: Do you have any stories about any ... kids that were bad?

Anita: I'm sorry no I don't!

Me: What kind of rules would be broken, broken to the get in trouble?

Anita: Mostly just probably chewing gum and talking during class and there wasn't anything like ^{right now} drugs ~~or~~ ^{include} smoking or anything, ha, ha ha ha!

Me: How did the community use the building?

Anita: Ah ... they had like story hour for the kids like three and third + ah three and four kids they had story hour couple days a week, washing machine, but otherwise I don't think the community ^{didn't} really use it ah oh yes we did we had brownies and girl scout meetings there. Ah um but otherwise it was just mostly the like we had christmas programs and the kids, but otherwise the community I don't think there was that much their. ^{washing machine?} ^{you should have asked a follow-up}

me: What's a special memory you have from West Ishpeming?

Anita: ah I think one of the special moments was probably ~~graduation~~ graduating from ^{eighth} grade. We had um a little program, we all had new dresses that we had bought and stuff. And the Christmas programs, it was always a big deal with the Christmas programs because it was a small auditorium so it was all crowded, people standing in the hallways, haha, it was a lot of fun. *include + quote part*

me: Who are the most memorable teachers from West Ishpeming?

Anita: Teachers... oh we had some really good ones. Um Norman Goethe was my eighth grade teacher it's the first man teacher ~~I~~ ever had we had women teachers up until then. So it was in fact that ~~*~~ was his first teaching position in eighth grade in West Ishpeming, West Ishpeming School and so that was you, we really liked him. And also we Mrs. Palomaki she was know my seventh grade teacher, and then she retired after seventh grade that's why we had Mr. Goethe, but ah um, they were all really good teachers. *include + quote*

me: Who was your most favorite teacher?

Anita: Probably Mr. Goethe, hahaha!

me: Why?

Anita: Ah I don't know it was just ah different I think...
girls liked him, girls liked him. It was young.. young male
I think all the
teacher, I don't know.

me: How about the teacher you disliked the most?

Anita: Disliked, well I think it was, it would have to be Mrs.
Williams. I had her for... lets see..... fifth and sixth grade
I think it was. She was a stricter ^{one} of all of um we had.
We had to give book reports and..... I don't know she just...
the other ones were more lenient I think and she was strictest
strictest one I really didn't like her as well.

include -
but leave out
name.

me: How long was the noon time at school?

Anita: An hour!

me: an hour!

Anita: Umhu (ahha)

me: What were some of the games ^{that} you would play?

Anita: Ohh... we'd have ah baseball, boys and girls all you know
play baseball on the schoolyard, um jumprope, and jacks, the
girls ~~would~~... we all would play jacks really. Um what else
~~did~~ we can't think of it the school we would
play.

include

me: Where were your jackets kept at West Ishpeming?

Anita: Where were the jackets kept? Um in the hallway we had little hooks and we'd all keep them there. *include*

me: What was your favorite subject in school?

Anita: I think probably math, arithmetic, I liked that um ah
that's probably it yah.

me: Why is that?

Anita: Well I always liked numbers in which you could ... see what you're doing.

me: What were the holiday celebrations like at school?

Anita: Christmas, ah I think we usually had ^{all the} like the presidents, Washington's birthday off, and the ah Lincoln's birthday before they had president's day we had all those holidays. um Halloween ah Valentines day, we all brought Valentines for all the kids and had the big box some stuff they probably still do *include + guide*

me: What kinds of special programs were there ~~x~~ in school?

Anita: I think most just the Christmas program was what they had ah this one?

me: Did you break any bones or get sick for a long time while in school?

Anita: No

me: okay, During your childhood who was your doctor?

Anita: Ah um... my childhood... you know we never really went to the doctor that often we were kids, I really don't remember, Who I got to see later was Doctor Scroter but I can't ah.... I don't think we really had a doctor.

include

me: What would you do if you got sick oh... in school?

Anita: Yah... we would have a school nurse at that time, they'd just take you to the hospital, the Ishpeming hospital.

me: While in school did you have to get a job after school or on the weekend to help earn money?

Anita: No, I didn't I was lucky hahaha!

me: What kind of chores would you do?

Anita: Well, usually on Saturday we'd have to clean the house and clean our own room and vacuum and stuff and help out my mother.

include

me: What do you remember from the snowstorm of 1938?

Anita: Nothing, 'cause I was born in 1938!

me: okay

were not

me: Do you remember what it was like with the polio...
~~the~~ virus and vaccine?

Anita: Ah kind of that was in the early forties too, so I was kind of young but I do remember laying in bed one night and my legs were aching and the first thing I could ~~think~~ think of is I'm getting polio because that was really prevalent about in the late forties and so I was quite young but I do remember about that. *include*

me: Did any of your friends get tuberculosis or polio?

Anita: No, ahah.

me: What kind of clothing would you wear ~~as a student~~ during the summer and winter?

Anita: To school?

me: Ahha.

Anita: We ah we had to wear dresses we couldn't, nobody could wear pants. You can tell in this picture we had the long stockings and ah, and then the winter coats you know boots we had the high boots with the ... stadium boots with the fur all around them. *include and quite*

me: For school clothes where would you usually shop?

Anita: Probably... I think, well J.C. Penny was ^{when} I was in I sh pe ming. That was one of the ^{most} and the Newberry Store they had downtown also. *include*

me: Where did you travel to as a child?

Anita: Ferry we didn't go very far at all. We went to um ah...
The furthest I think I probably went was Wakefield or
Ironwood, Michigan and ah in fact I didn't cross, go to lower
Michigan across the bridge until I was married on
our honeymoon. Didn't go very far at all. *include and quote part*

me: Were there any minorities or immigrants from foreign countries
at the school?

Anita: No

me: How was life like during World War II?

Anita: Well ^{I had} my two older brothers were in the service this so I remember
er them coming home. On the 400, the train, and some
holidays ^{and/or} one Christmas ~~X~~ my brother ~~am~~ was over seas and
we remember about them. When he was wasn't home for
Christmas for a couple years ah. At home there was alot
of rationing, the gas the rationing, the food, and um it was buying
war bonds *include*

me: Where would you go to buy the war bonds?

Anita: To the bank

me: Did school change at all?

Anita: No, I don't think so no it seemed alot the same.

me: What was it like to find news about the war?

Anita: It was mostly in the newspaper that we or the radio that we heard. I was quite young at that time too because it, ~~was~~ I was probably only 5 years old so I really don't know that much that was going on.

me: In your pastime after school what would you do?

Anita: Well in the wintertime we would ~~always~~ go skating. They would always have a ice rink at in the schoolyard and we'd go there right after school and or right after supper and come home about 9 o'clock, walk crawling up the hill 'cause we'd just skate ~~all the time~~ for almost all the time. Or in the summer time play ball or ah play tag or ah run sheeprun at different peoples houses and just made our own fun. We didn't have a T.V. until... probably I was in high school before we got a T.V. I think I was *include*

so

me: What kinds of sports did you play then will in the winter?
★ you would ice skate?

Anita: Just mostly just ice skate!

me: Then in the summer you'd play baseball and...

Anita: Play baseball and go to the beach once in a while, go swimming.

me: What were your holiday celebrations like as a child at home?

Anita: At home?

me: Ah ha.

Anita: We'd ah usually go to my aunt & ~~uncle's~~ house on Christmas Eve, we'd go to church, about 10:30 for the midnight service after that an. Then we'd just have a small opening up ~~of~~ our presents on Christmas morning and have dinner each of my grandma & grandpa would come over for Christmas dinner *include*

me: ~~Do~~ you have any stories about that?

Anita: Not that I can remember, no, I know we didn't get that much as we the kids do nowadays,

me: yah

Anita: I remember one little piano I had that just a little ~~box~~ thing you put on the floor and was playing that piano I was probably six years old or something but...

me: What kinds of grades would you get at West Ishpeming?

Anita: Usually A's & B's

me: How many grades were in the school?

Anita: through the eighth grade, and then we went to Ishpeming High School after that.

me: About how many students were in the school?

Anita: All together through the eighth grade... I... well probably
~~me~~ 13 in each grade ... times 8 or times 9 from kindergarten,
what'd that be ... about a hundred probably at least.

me: How would your parents of acted if you got in trouble
at school?

Anita: I probably get punished at home besides getting punished at
school.

me: What was the most fun you had at the school?

Anita: What was fun... we used to have a picnic usually, the last
day of school and we could ah bring little kids or something I'd
usually bring kids I ~~X~~ babysat for and ... just to show them
off. It was a lot of fun.

me: Did you go on any field trips ~~X~~ ⁱⁿ school?

Anita: When we were in the seventh grade we went to the
Copper Country. Seventh and eighth grade.

me: Why did you go there? (follow-up question) 😊

Anita: Just a field trip I guess that was the furthest
people went those days. Didn't go too far.

me: What grade did you like the most?

Anita: Well I liked fourth and fifth grade ^{quite a bit} cause I had a nice teacher. Name was Mrs. Hemmila and also the eighth grade, I liked that

me: Do you remember getting in trouble?

Anita: No I don't

me: Can you remember the name of your first teacher?

Anita: Mrs. Hammar

me: any others?

Anita: that was, we had her for kindergarden, first, & second grade and then ah we had Mrs. Hemmila for .. fourth and fifth grade, and then ah Mrs. Williams for fifth and sixth ... no lets see ^{3rd} Fourth Mrs. Hemmila and fifth & sixth Mrs. Williams and then I had Tyne Palomaki for seventh grade and Norman Goethe for eighth grade *include*

me: What was the price of pop when you were a little kid?

Anita: Probably about 10 cents a bottle, it was always in the bottles in those times *include*

me: How about candy?
P! 9207

Anita: penny candy ah we had two stores in the neighborhood at that time. There was Kulatz's store which is a apartment building ^{check sp} ~~on~~ Silver Street, and then there was Linguist's store were ah that paint ^{right now} Ted's paint store is right now bottom of prospect street. So we can just go ~~and~~ and buy penny candy or we can get a whole bunch for a nickel *include*

me: Is there any like significant stories that you can remember?

Anita: huh *(ask again)*

me: What was it like to get your first T.V.

Anita: Well it was black and white. I don't even remember where we, where we bought it from. but I remember watching we could ^{just} get ~~at~~ one channel and it was ah kinda snowy and you'd ah I can see a picture, I can see picture, through the snow. It wasn't too clear but we you know just had a few shows we could watch anyway.

me: What were the shows that you would watch? *include*

Anita: Ah.... Lawrence Welk I think and am I'm not ~~that~~ sure if Bonanza was that early when I know that was one of the shows, but that might have been on a little later.

me: Did you listen to the radio for entertainment before you got a T.V.?

Anita: ah ha

me: What were some of the programs that you would listen to on that?

Anita: mostly just ah the musical programs,

me: as a child did you eat out often?

Anita: no, very so

me: If you did where would you go?

Anita: ... probably Auntie's Cafe that'd be one downtown.

I don't know what else was down there, ... 41 club we went there quite a bit that was when I was a little bit older, though I don't think I was in grade school.

include

me: Do you have any stories about going to restaurants?

Anita: restaurants, no. Not really no can't even remember going when I was in grade school at all

me: How were your summer times spent?

Anita: Just getting together ... with our ... the friends
and we'd be gone all day long just jump rope or
run sheep run or we'd go out in the woods out there
and have um potato roasts and ah swimming
in Corp River here sometimes and wintertime we'd
skate on the river if it was frozen

me: Do you have any pictures of the classes and dates and or
names?

Anita: I do somewhere and this is the only one I could
find and I should really go through some more of my
pictures I can find for you.

me: Where there alot of dropouts in your grade?

Anita: No ah ah.

me: Why do you think not many would drop out?

Anita: I don't know they just ah they just stayed. In high
school it was more. ^{Ignorant}

me: more?

Anita: yah you would start with in ninth grade and
not alot of them would graduate, alot of them would
join the navy or the army or something ^{gain the service}
^{but some of} ^{they drop out} page 17
include

me: What are your most vivid memory of school?

Anita: Closing the school was one thing, I can't remember what the date it was, but I mean that was kind of traumatic when they ~~were~~ were wanting to close the school. We always yak that was focal point of the kids that you whenever you wanted to go anywhere you can just say ~~well~~ we'll meet in the school yard and we can play out their you know but that was a lot of fun, ^{include}

me: Do you have any specific funny or sad incidents?

Anita: At the school?

me: ah ha!

Anita: Not really not mostly I remember the skating in the wintertime they had. Like all the old, older people would come and skate so their parents and my kids would be skating out there and the young kids it was a lot of fun.

me: Did you have a yearbook at the time?

Anita: No

me: What were the after school activities at that time?

Anita: At West Ishpeming School there was nothing.

me: Did you play any sports while in high school?

Anita: No

me: Who were the schools rivals?

Anita: West Ishpeming School there was no rivals 'cause there was no sports.

me: Did you play any instruments in school?

Anita: Umam (no)

me: Did west ish peming have a chorus?

Anita: No.

me: So all that started in high school?

Anita: yah

me: What do you remember about being a teen ager?

Anita: Well that was um... when I was in high school we had the youth center and it was above Navotzky's garage and that's where we spent most of our weekends, We had dances every week that was a lot of fun, and proms, that was all ^(weekend) in high school *include* I think

me: While in school what kind of student were you?

Anita: Well pretty good 'bout a A-B student

me: What was the ^{lets say} hottest or coolest music ~~what~~ in school?

Anita: The Beatles probably... what type of music like rock or *The Beatles were the 60's*

me: Well any kind for ~~any~~ elementary or high school that you would like to listen to.

Anita: Elvis Presley was one... that was more when I was in high school though, Elvis Presley the Beatles I think they are.

me: How was high school for you at the time?

Anita: It was kind of hard to adjust, we went from a small school, You know we went *include* page 20

(continued)

Anita: through ... all these kids were from kindergarden - eighth grade and all of a sudden we went to this big school, and we'd take the bus and it was different because the kids in town they all new each other ^{from} they went to middle school and elementary all together to say they, the majority of them (majority) new each other and then we we were someone new that bus kids put us down you know that's the bus kids they kind of coming and it was a little difficult.

quote part

me: During the Korean War did life change for you?

Anita: No, not really

me: Where did you go after high school?

Anita: I started working at the Peninsula Bank ...
... as a teller

me: Where did you work before you were married?
Peninsula Bank

Anita: ah ha

me: How about after you were married?

Anita: Nah no I started having kids and I didn't work after that,

me: When did you graduate from high school?

Anita: 1956

me: How many students about were there?

Anita: 130 I think

me: What kind of further education did you get?

Anita: No that's it, high school.

me: What would you do on a date?

Anita: On a date usually go to the movies and out for coke or something after the movies, and sometimes go to the youth center. ~~or~~ ^{on} weekends. We just driving around there wasn't that wasn't a heck of a lot to do. *include*

me: Did you have any role models ~~or~~ while in school?

Anita: No, I don't think so.

me: How old were you when you started driving?

Anita: 16

me: What was it like to get your first car?

Anita: I didn't really have a car I had used my dad's once in a while he didn't let me have it too often and then when I started going with my husband right now he had when he went in the service he left his car for me to use I was just out of high school at that time so I really didn't have a car of my own until..... include

me: What were some of the stuff you would do on Halloween?

Anita: 'Boat the same as they do right now ^{we would just} go to house and get all kinds of candy.

me: were there any kids that would throw eggs?

Anita: No I don't think it was eggs, but they, we had out door toilets at that time and they would knock the toilets over some of the mischievous boys. include

me: Why was everyone mad when West Ishpeming School closed?

Anita: Well it was a landmark I think they wanted to keep it for the kids if anybody... they just closed before my grandson would've gone their to school it's kind of would've been nice if he could've went their.

emphasize three generations

me: How do you feel about the school and how it is used now?

Anita: Well I wish they would either probably tear it down cause it's nice out right now. (?) *Doesn't make sense*

me: When were you married?

Anita: In 1959, June of 1959

me: To Bernie Mattila?

Anita: Bernie Mattila

me: What are your childrens names?

Anita: Ok Peggy was born in 1961 no 1960 do you want their married names or just their first names.

me: first names

Anita: ok, ~~Sandy~~^{Sandy} was born in 1961, Brian was born in '65 and Lisa was born in '69

me: Did they go to West Ishpeming

Anita: Yes, they all did I think the older one I'm not sure about Lisa how ~~that~~ but they mostly from first grade through the fifth they went to kindergarden to North Lake. page 24

(Continued)

Anita: I'm not sure if Lisa went through the fifth grade or not she might've just gone because for a while they just had the first, second, and third or first and second I think, she might have just gone couple years

me: Is there anything else you'd like to tell me about West Ishpeming

Anita: Well it was a nice school we had small classes and teachers were ... knew us all by name and by our parents. In fact my teacher Mrs. Palomaki lived next door to me when I was in seventh grade and Mrs. Hemmila, ^{she} lived in the neighborhood too so she knew us all as kids so it was like a very friendly I really enjoyed going there

include
+ quote

me: Were there parent teacher conferences at the school?

Anita: I don't remember I don't think so not until later.

me: Is there anyone else I should interview from West Ishpeming School?

Anita: I think what would be a good one would be Isaac Palomaki up the street lives up in Gold Street because his in fact that was his wife that was a teacher so he may have a lot of pictures of stuff too and a lot of information

me: I think someone

Anita: Someone else is going to interview him.

me: yah, Did your brothers go to West Ishpeming?

Anita: They both did, Melvin and ~~Bob~~ ~~Bob~~ Bob *emphasize family connection*

me: Does Bob right now live on Cooper Lake Rd,

Anita: Yup, no Copper St. and my brother Melvin lives on Prospect. Although out at the camp on weekends though. But yah he went oh in fact I think I had ~~a~~ a picture of him in one of the classrooms I think I gave it to him not too long ago. But yah you could probably interview them. I gave you Karen Marnites name key, Karen Brown. Yah there's almost everyone who lives ~~at~~ here went to West Ishpeming School

me: Vell ok. Thank you Mrs. Anita Mattila for letting me interview you.

Anita: Okay, thank you!